

# ***DECEMBER 2005 WEATHER SUMMARY***

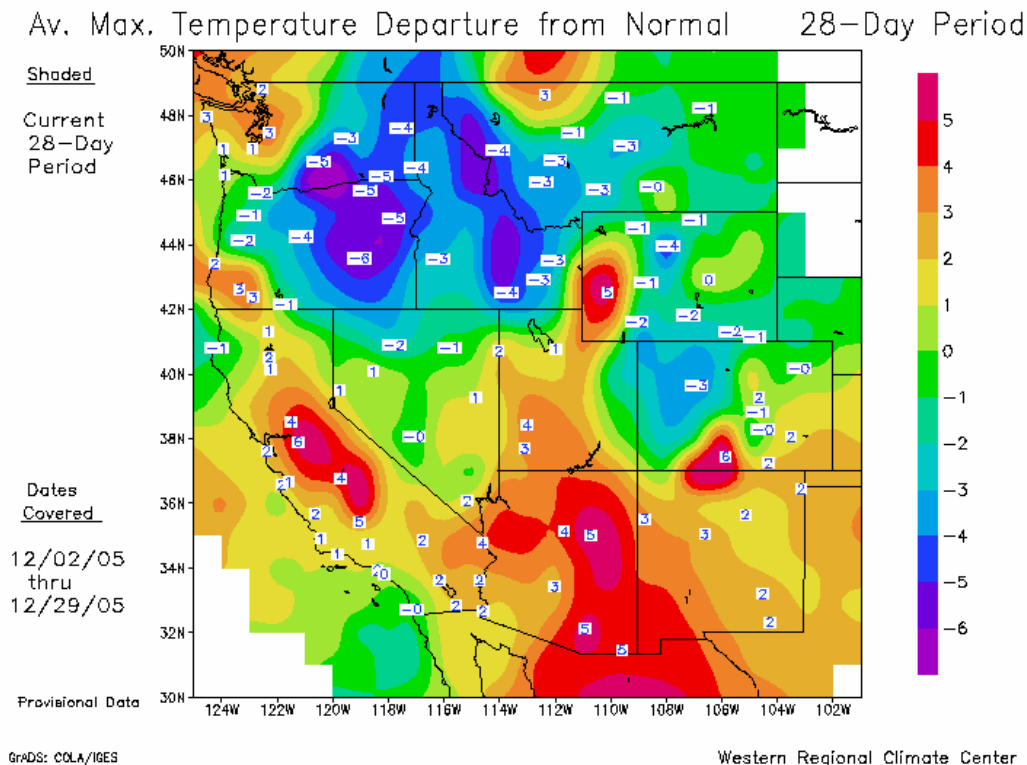
## ***RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER***

### ***INTRODUCTION***

For most of December, a ridge of high pressure over California brought above normal temperatures. However, a few pacific troughs brought near to a little below normal temperatures for short periods of time. The troughs brought near to above normal precipitation to Central California and below normal precipitation to Southern California. Winds were mainly northerly with the ridges of high pressure and southerly with the pacific troughs. The first week of the month was dominated by strong offshore winds, mainly over Southern California..

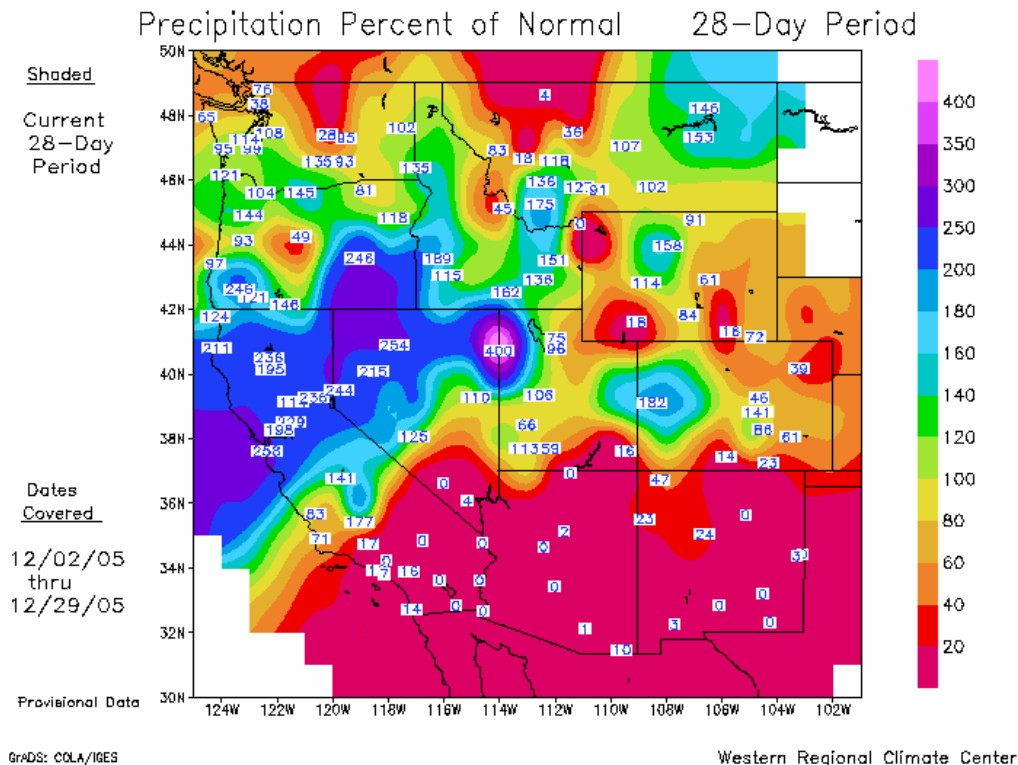
### ***TEMPERATURES***

A ridge of high pressure over California brought above normal temperatures during most of December. However, a few pacific troughs brought near to a little below normal temperatures for short periods of time. Across Southern California, many valley locations had maximum temperatures in the 70s and 80s with the ridges of high pressure and 60s with the pacific troughs. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the mid 60s to low 70s the whole month. For the entire month, maximum temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal over some South Coast locations to 6 degrees above normal over some Sierra Foothill locations. Riverside set a daily high maximum temperature of 90 degrees on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 86 degrees on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 87 degrees on December 24<sup>th</sup>.



## ***PRECIPITATION***

A few pacific troughs brought periods of showers mainly during the first and last week of December. Most locations over Central California received between 1 and 3 inches of rain and most locations over Southern California received less than an inch of rain for the entire month. There were some areas along the north coast and the Sierra that had totals between 10 and 15 inches. Point Sur had almost 20 inches for the month. The snow level over the Sierra was generally around 8,000 feet for most of the month and several new feet of snow fell above this level. Snow only fell over the highest peaks in Southern California. Overall, most locations over Central California received near to above normal rainfall, while locations over Southern California received below normal precipitation. Riverside received 0.31 inches of rainfall for the month, when normally they receive 1.18 inches.



## ***WINDS***

Winds were mainly southerly with the troughs and northerly with the ridges of high pressure. Southerly winds were mainly between 10 and 20 mph with the troughs and northerly winds were mainly between 5 and 15 mph with the ridges of high pressure. However, there were strong offshore winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California from December 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 9<sup>th</sup>. During this time, winds were 15 to 30 mph with gusts in the 40s and 50s. There were numerous days of offshore flow over the southern part of the region, but wind speeds were not significantly strong.

## ***Fires***

As warm and dry as it was over many areas for much of the month, there was no significant fire activity.

## ***CONCLUSION***

Overall, December had above normal temperatures. Precipitation was near to above normal over Central California and below normal over Southern California. Winds were mainly southerly with the troughs and northerly with the ridges of high pressure. The first week of the month was dominated by strong offshore winds. Offshore flow dominated the weather over the Southern California much of the month.

